*Pls. check against delivery*

**PHILIPPINES**

**Statement by H.E. Cecilia B. Rebong**

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative**

**to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva**

**UPR of MALDIVES**

**22nd Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Human Rights Council**

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Mister President, the Philippines welcomes the delegation of Maldives and the presentation of its national report.

We commend Maldives for consistently pursuing human rights based approach both on its climate change mitigation and adaptation plans and on its disaster risk reduction and preparedness programs.

The Philippines appreciates Maldives ratification of 7, out of 9, core international human rights convention and 8 ILO fundamental conventions. We welcome its ongoing review of the ICRMW and the Palermo Protocol on human trafficking. We **recommend** that Maldives step up its efforts to ratify the ICRMW and the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Girls. My delegation also **recommends** that Maldives consider ratifying ILO Convention 189.

My delegation is encouraged by the enactment in Maldives of legislation addressing domestic violence and violence against women. We take particular note of the new law against sexual abuse such as rape, including marital rape. We **recommend** that Maldives continue working for the enactment into law of the Gender Equality Bill.

Mister President, as fellow member of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, my country wishes Maldives well as it considers and implements its accepted recommendations during this 2nd cycle of UPR.

Thank you, Mister President.